

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900 Seattle, WA 98101-3140

> OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

February 16, 2016

Tom Montoya Forest Supervisor Wallowa-Whitman National Forest 1550 Dewey Avenue Baker City, Oregon 97814

Dear Mr. Montoya:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record Of Decision for the proposed **Invasive Plant Treatment** project (EPA Project Number 06-022-AFS) on Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) in Wallowa, Baker, Malheur and Grant Counties in Oregon and Adams and Nez Perce Counties in Idaho.

In our comments on the Draft SEIS in May 2015, the EPA expressed a lack of objections to the proposed project, but offered recommendations to strengthen its environmental protection aspects. The Final SEIS is responsive to our recommendations. In particular, we appreciate Forest Service's information regarding processes to obtain both the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Pesticide General Permits for the project. We believe that adherence to permit conditions and other recommended measures will help to protect resources from project impacts. In addition, we encourage implementation of other efforts to reduce impacts during implementation of this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Final SEIS and draft ROD. If you have questions about our comments, please contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322 or electronic mail at <a href="mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov">mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov</a>.

Minto B Littleton

Christine B. Littleton, Manager

Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit